

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A precipitated silica having the following physicochemical characteristics:

BET surface area	from 50 to 700 m ² /g;
DBP absorption	from 100 to 450 g/100 g;
Choline chloride absorption	from 150 to 400 g/100 g (75% absorption by weight aqueous solution);
CTAB surface area	from 50 to 350 m ² /g; and
DBP/choline chloride absorption	less than 1.07; <u>and</u>
<u>Sears number</u>	<u>greater than 25 ml/5g.</u>

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The precipitated silica of Claim 1, having a modified Sears number of from at least ~~[[20]]~~ 25 to 45.

5. (Previously Presented) The precipitated silica of Claim 1, having a BET surface area of 180-210 m²/g, a DBP adsorption of 280-450 g/100g, and a CTAB surface area of 130-200 m²/g.

6-9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) A process for preparing precipitated silica, comprising:
simultaneously metering into an aqueous silicate solution more aqueous silicate solution and a Lewis and/or Brønsted acid to provide a mixture,
acidifying the mixture to a pH of 7-3.0 to provide an acidified mixture,
optionally filtering the acidified mixture to obtain a filtered precipitated silica,
optionally drying the filtered precipitated silica,
wherein the metered addition of the aqueous silicate solution and the Lewis and/or Brønsted acid is carried out while maintaining a constant alkali number in the mixture of at least 1, and

wherein said silica has the following physicochemical characteristics:

BET surface area	from 50 to 700 m ² /g;
DBP absorption	from 100 to 450 g/100 g;
Choline chloride absorption	from 150 to 400 g/100 g (75% absorption by weight aqueous solution);
CTAB surface area	from 50 to 350 m ² /g;
DBP/choline chloride absorption	less than 1.07.

11. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 10, wherein the alkali number is at least 15.

12. (Original) The process of claim 10, further comprising the addition of an electrolyte prior to or during the simultaneous addition of aqueous silicate solution and Lewis and/or Brønsted acid.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:

contacting the precipitated silica of claim 1 with a feed additive, a chemical intermediate, or a laundry detergent component.

15. (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:

contacting the precipitated silica of claim 1 with formic acid, propionic acid, lactic acid, phosphoric acid, choline chloride solution, a plant extract, a melamine resin, a coatings additive, a fragrance, or a detergent.

16. (Previously Presented) An elastomer, plastic, battery separator, toothpaste, catalyst support or flocculation assistant, comprising:

the precipitated silica of Claim 1.

17. (Previously Presented) A process for preparing precipitated silica, comprising:

simultaneously metering into a vessel an aqueous silicate solution and a Lewis and/or Brønsted acid to provide a mixture,

acidifying the mixture to a pH of 7-3 to provide an acidified mixture,

optionally filtering the acidified mixture to obtain a filtered precipitated silica,

optionally drying the filtered precipitated silica,

wherein the metered addition of the aqueous silicate solution and the Lewis and/or Brønsted acid is carried out while maintaining a constant alkali number in the mixture of at least 1, and wherein said silica has the following physicochemical characteristics:

BET surface area	from 50 to 700 m ² /g;
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DBP absorption	from 100 to 450 g/100 g;
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Choline chloride absorption	from 150 to 400 g/100 g (75% absorption by weight aqueous solution);
CTAB surface area	from 50 to 350 m ² /g; and
DBP/choline chloride absorption	less than 1.07.

18. (Original) The process of claim 17 wherein the alkali number is at least 15.

19. (Original) The process of claim 17, further comprising the addition of an electrolyte prior to or during the simultaneous addition of aqueous silicate solution and Lewis and/or Brønsted acid.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 10, wherein said filtering of said acidified mixture is performed.

23. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 22, wherein said drying of said filtered precipitated silica is performed.

24. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 17, wherein said filtering of said acidified mixture is performed.

25. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 24, wherein said drying of said filtered precipitated silica is performed.

26. (New) The precipitated silica of Claim 1, having a modified Sears number greater than 28 ml/5g.

27. (New) The process of Claim 10, wherein said precipitated silica has a modified Sears number greater than 25 ml/5g.

28. (New) The process of Claim 17, wherein said precipitated silica has a modified Sears number greater than 25 ml/5g.

BASIS FOR THE AMENDMENT

Claim 1 has been amended as supported at page 4, line 18 of the specification.

New Claims 26-28 have been added as supported at page 4, line 18 and 19 of the specification.

No new matter is believed to have been added by entry of this amendment. Entry and favorable reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of this amendment Claims 1, 4, 5, 10-12, 14-19 and 22-28 will now be active in this application.